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N E W S   C O N F E R E N C E

#58-A

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IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 7:16 P.M. PST

OCTOBER 31, 1974

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: Folks, at 6:35 the President placed a phone call to Mrs. Nixon, who was at a private residence in Rolling Hills, California.

The President said, "How is the President?" And Mrs. Nixon described his condition and she used the word "feisty" to describe his mood.

The President said, "I don't want to push, but would it help if I came down there?" Mrs. Nixon replied, "I cannot think of anything that would do him more good."

The President then explained that he had a busy schedule here, he did have some time in the morning and that he would get together with his schedulers and see if he could do it. At the end of the conversation the President said, "Give him my very best and say hello to the girls for me."

The conversation lasted about two minutes.

At about the same time, Dr. Lungren phoned Dr. Lukash, who is here in the hotel, and discussed the former President's condition. The decision on whether to go to the hospital and visit the former President will be made in the morning, depending on Dr. Lungren's opinion of whether it would be helpful to the former President.

Q     Did you say "feisty"?

MR. NESSEN: Feisty. Dr. Lungren has used that same word in his conversation with Dr. Lukash. They both used the word "feisty" to describe his mood.

END           (AT 7:18 P.M. PST)

#58-A

This Copy For \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS CONFERENCE

#58-B

IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WITH BILL ROBERTS

AT 11:05 P.M. PST

OCTOBER 31, 1974

THURSDAY

MR. ROBERTS: If I may have your attention, please, I have a little more information for you.

If the President does visit the former President tomorrow, we will take a very limited three-man press pool with him. It will consist of the AP, the UPI, and Newsweek Magazine. The rest of the press and the balance of the Air Force One pool will go from here to the Los Angeles airport and then on to Fresno.

Now, there is a possibility that the buses may depart from the hotel here slightly earlier than the 9:00 time, which is in the bible. We should have more information for you available here in this Beverly Hills Room at 8:00 in the morning.

That is about it.

Q Bill, is there any chance that if this pool goes, it will go well before 8:00?

MR. ROBERTS: I would not think so.

Q Can you explain why the limited pool like this?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes. We were able to get only one small helicopter as the number two helicopter, and there will be some staff and Secret Service aboard that, and there are only two seats available for the press.

Q Is it a matter of the President's schedule as to whether he visits the former President or is it Lungren's decision?

MR. ROBERTS: I think the President, in his conversation with Mrs. Nixon, as reported, said that he would be available to go if it would be all right to visit the former President.

MORE

#58-B

Q The President said he had a busy schedule and he would see if he would be able to do it. You are saying it is all up to Lungren now, is that right?

MR. ROBERTS: No, I am not saying that. But I am saying that that plays a good part in the decision.

Q Bill, when are we going to get some information on this? What time are you going to tell us whether or not he is going?

MR. ROBERTS: I should think we should have that at 8:00 California time.

Q You don't think it will come any earlier than 8:00?

MR. ROBERTS: It might come 15 minutes earlier than 8:00, or half an hour earlier, but not much more than that.

Q One of the things we will need to know -- all the networks have live cameras at the hospital. We will need help from the White House on which entrance the President intends to use, and those other facts. Really, we need those at 8:00.

MR. ROBERTS: I think that information should be available. We will do our best to make it available.

Q Bill, it is real mechanics in terms of where he will be, what door.

MR. ROBERTS: I understand. We will do our best.

Q We now have a lid until what time?

MR. ROBERTS: We now have a lid until -- let's make it 7:30 tomorrow morning, PST.

END (11:10 P.M. PST)